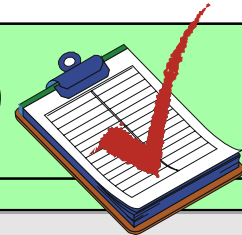


CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

April 30, 2001

NEWS BRIEFS

OAKWOOD HONORED

Oakwood Center in Pulaski County was recently honored with its second Millennium Award presented by the United Way of South Central Kentucky. Oakwood has received the United Way Award of Excellence for the past 11 consecutive years, with total donations of over \$160,000 since 1989.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

As part of Older Americans Month May 2001 activities, representatives from the Office of Aging Services will be distributing gold ribbons on the first floor lobby of the Human Resources Building on Wednesday, May 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.. The gold ribbons honor the *Golden Years* and contributions of our senior citizens. The ribbons should be worn throughout the month of May.



**TIP OF
THE
WEEK**

Yes, people with allergies can garden, if you observe a few precautions. Do your gardening in the evening. Most weeds unleash their pollen in the morning. Also, water the soil regularly to keep the dust and molds down and wear gardening gloves if you have sensitive skin.

Artwork Displayed in CHS Offices

The Cabinet for Health Services is teaming up with the Lexington Art League for an art show May 5 through Nov. 16.

About 25 pieces of framed art by Kentucky artists will be featured in the 5th floor lobby of the Human Resources Building in Frankfort. Lexington Art League visual arts director Claudia Thomas King and CHS interior designer Lori Gibson are coordinating the show.

The purpose of the show is to showcase and promote the talent of Kentucky artists and to beautify the newly renovated 5th-floor workspace.

The works of art are for sale and may be purchased by directly contacting the Lexington Art League at 800-914-7990. Informational sheets about the pieces of art and the artists



Claudia Thomas King of the Lexington Art League hangs a picture outside the CHS Secretary's Office.

will be available in the 5th floor lobby area or by contacting the Purchasing and Operational Management Branch at 564-6631.



Crafts, Balloons, Food Featured at Governor's Derby Breakfast

Kentucky craftspeople are taking part in the annual Governor's Derby Breakfast this Saturday, May 5. Some 28 exhibitors, all juried members of the Craft Marketing Program, will show and sell their crafts on the Capitol grounds from 7-11 a.m. on Derby Day.

The exhibitors will feature Kentucky crafts including ceramics, baskets, hand-dyed hooked rugs, corn shuck dolls, stained glass and metalwork.

The Craft Marketing Program works to expand the state's craft

industry, creating an economically viable environment for craftspeople while preserving the state's craft traditions. The program is a division of the Kentucky Arts Council; Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet.

Along with craft sales, the annual Derby Breakfast offers live entertainment, hot air balloons, a children's area and more. The breakfast is free and open to the public and features traditional Southern fare served under a large tent on the Capitol grounds.



Town Meetings For Kentucky Women

The Kentucky Commission on Women will host town meetings open to the public in 8 locations around the state, from April 30-May 24. All meetings will be from 6-8 p.m. local time. The purpose is to hear from women about the strengths and weaknesses of their communities in regard to improving the quality of life for Kentucky women. These meetings will assist KCW in advising the governor, legislature, and the private sector on issues relating to Kentucky women.

April 30-Hazard, Hazard Community College, the Feltner Building, One Community College Drive.

May 1-Somerset, Blakley Family YMCA, 100 East Somerset Church Road.

May 7-Bowling Green, Knicely Institute for Economic Development, 2355 Nashville Rd.

May 8-Madisonville, Chamber of Commerce, East Center Street.

May 10-Florence, Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd.

May 15-Lexington, Cross Keys YWCA, 1060 Cross keys Road.

May 17-Louisville, Louisville Free Public Library, 301 York St.

May 24-Ashland, American Electric Power Building, 17th St. and Central Ave.



Oakwood Center in Somerset Undergoes Reorganization

Oakwood Center is undergoing its first major reorganization since it opened 28 years ago. Oakwood, built in 1972 at Somerset in Pulaski County, serves approximately 400 persons with developmental disabilities who require unique treatments and supports currently unavailable in many Kentucky community settings.

Over the past decade while many facilities across the country of Oakwood's size were downsizing as community options became available, Oakwood remained at full capacity because of the demand for services and the waiting list for community placements.

Oakwood gradually became one of the largest campus environments in the nation. At the same time, it also became progressively more difficult to operate in an atmosphere of changing service needs and regulatory requirements.

The need to operate Oakwood in an environment with a smaller, more person-centered, specialized approach gave birth to the idea of *The*

Communities at Oakwood. The concept revolves around dividing Oakwood into four separately licensed facilities, each serving approximately 100 persons.

Oakwood's current campus covers more than 200 acres, so the notion of four separate administrative and service delivery systems was not unlike the grouping of *subdivisions* in a small town.

"Oakwood's residents and staff are excited and optimistic that the reorganization will improve services. We also believe it will ensure that Oakwood survives as Pulaski County's largest employer, and, more importantly, as home to the men and women living at Oakwood, many of whom have called the center home for more than 20 years," said Robert Erb, Oakwood's director.

The Communities At Oakwood: Stone Creek, Willow Run, Rolling Hills and Oak Knoll plan to build on the strength of Oakwood's history, while strengthening their capacity to provide superior services.



May Health Observances Listed On Web

May is a popular month for national health observances. Here is a listing from the National Health Information Center for various observances. More information is available by checking the center's website at: [http://](http://www.nichsa.org)



www.nichsa.org. Click on "Quick Information" and look for calendar under the "Health Observances" section.

May is Women's Health Awareness Month in Kentucky. More details will be listed in next week's newsletter.

And don't forget Mother's Day on May 13 and Memorial Day on May 28.



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